



February

1995

HAMSPLATTER



**FORT WAYNE
RADIO CLUB**
Fort Wayne, Indiana

The Fort Wayne Radio Club
P O Box 15127
Fort Wayne, IN 46885

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FORT WAYNE, IN
PERMIT 2072

To:

K9OMA/KA9YYI
JIM & ANNE PLIETT
16702 WAPPES RD.
CHURUBUSCO, IN 46723

Don't Forget your 1995 DUES!

For Sale:

* MFJ-817 Deluxe VHF/UHF SWR/Watt Meter (equal trade or \$50)

* Heathkit HK-21 Pocket Packet TNC with manual. It's no bigger than a pack of 100's. It has a Mailbox. (equal trade or \$100)

* 14 inch EGA Color Computer Monitor (equal trade or \$75)

Contact Ernie Blazer, AA9NL (NX8N) 471-5824



Do you have an interesting article, news item, or cartoon which you can contribute to the Hamsplatter? Do you have some spare equipment collecting dust that you want to sell? If so, please contact me, Kris, KF9AW. My day phone is 487-3286, evenings 486-7324. Packet messages can be directed to me on 144.91, cluster KR9U or on 144.97, W9INX.

1994 MEMBERSHIP DATA: (Give this form to the treasurer at any FWRC meeting or mail to address below)

NAME _____ CALL _____ CLASS: N T G A E

MAIL ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME TELEPHONE # () _____ WORK TELEPHONE # () _____

SHALL WE LIST YOUR ADDR/PHONE# IN MEMBER ROSTER? Y N ARRL MEMBER? Y N

MEMBERSHIP TERM: (JAN-DEC) (JULY-DEC, July 1-Dec 31 ONLY)

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: _____ \$21.00/yr _____ \$10.50/yr immediate family(list all calls)

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP: _____ \$15.00/yr _____ \$7.50/yr licensed member

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP: _____ \$ 6.00/yr _____ \$3.00/yr full time student

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: _____ \$15.00/yr _____ \$7.50/yr unlicensed member

YOUR CHECK NUMBER # _____ PLEASE PAY BY CHECK, IT'S EASIER FOR BOTH OF US!

PLEASE RENEW YOUR ARRL MEMBERSHIP THROUGH THE FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB, INC.
ITS EASY! SEND YOUR ARRL RENEWAL FORM AND A CHECK (payable to FWRC) TO THE CLUB.

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK (CIRCLE THIS PARAGRAPH TO RESERVE ONE!)

Provided at no cost to club members, this handbook provides a full set of information about present and past Club activities, events, and functions. The handbook is available in a clear cover binder, and is upgradeable by easy insertion of new pages into the three-hole binder.

The Hamsplatter

Is published monthly by the Fort Wayne Radio Club,
PO Box 15127, Ft. Wayne, IN 46885



PRESIDENT: CARL RITTENHOUSE, N9NRO 485-4012

VICE PRESIDENT: CLIFF SHREVE, N9MKB

SECRETARY: AL BURKE, WB9SSE 637-1989

BOARD: CAROLE BURKE WB9RUS DAVE EVANS N9LOV WALT WOOD N9AVR RON BISHOP N9HZH

TREASURER: SCOTT SIDES, N9PXG 744-3478

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Old Time Chatter - Ted Clifton W9TC

To continue our subject of "Who was the first TV Station in Ft. Wayne.", in the year of 1935 W3XPF was in operation on Mermaid Lane, in the Wyndmoor Twp - a suburb of Philadelphia. Bonnie Cruthers who was quite photogenic, would sign off the station with "This is WX3PF, Farnsworth Television, pioneer of the air, I'll be seeing you." Farnsworth at that time was being funded by Philco. RCA began receiving the Philco/Farnsworth transmissions. RCA issued an ultimatum to Philco: either it dumped the Farnsworth Co. or its license to use RCA Patents would not be renewed.



An early TV broadcast session (1936), probably aired in Philadelphia.

In 1939 Farnsworth moved to Fort Wayne and joined the Capehart Company. As I write this article, I am reviewing a book "Distant Vision," by Elma G. Farnsworth, the wife of Philo. She indicates that WGL which was owned at that time by Capehart was used to broadcast television. I checked W9DRS who was an engineer at WGL. He was unable to confirm any TV operation by WGL. Gerry also worked for a time at the Pontiac Plant. His is now 90 years of age. I first visited W9DRS in Decatur ca. 60 plus years ago, I recall he was using a pair of 852's.



The Capehart Company on Pontiac St - Site of the first Fort Wayne TV broadcasts? ITT Aerospace currently calls the facility home.

It is my belief that all the broadcasts were made from the Pontiac location under the experimental license.

I shall recount for you an interesting story told to me by one of the hams who was working at the Company during that period.



Remote TV operation is not a recent innovation. Here is an outdoor broadcast, with Philo on the right, manning the transmitter.

During this period, Philo was under pressure by the stockholders for permission to manufacture TV sets. Philo rejected their requests, saying the Public should not have to pay for R & D work. Down the road was another Radio Mfg. who was manufacturing TV sets. Since there were no TV stations in FW other than the Farnsworth experimental station, that signal was used for on the air checks of the TV receivers. Farnsworth started to receive a number of calls asking for the time of their next broadcast. Being told or realizing what was happening, Farnsworth stopped on the air testing, PANIC.



Philo Farnsworth

Among the many employees who came from Philly was one who was quite skilled at building test equipment, but was not a Radio Amateur. In a short time he left Farnsworth and then appeared on the payroll of the TV Manufacture Co. I do recall: an early Company picnic when that employee enjoyed to much sauce and thinking he was a dog, was down on all four barking like a dog. Being a dog lover, I tried to pat him on the head, which resulted in his attempt to bite me on the leg.

Old Time Chatter (continued)

As we close out the year of 1994 we will no longer Leg able to communicate with following except by ESP:

Hap Norton, W9PRO the voice of 88. A real pro.
Robert Long, W9TJN, who was plant controller at Dana for 33 years.
Robert Sanders, W9LKI, who was our paper boy that became president of the FWRC and later became VP of Magnavox.
Ed Dullagham, W9PAQ. Worked at both ITT and Magnavox.
Ward Fax, Unable to recall his call Excellent CW
Wm Sweet, KC9MB, County Surveyors and ex Magnavox.
Robert Crammer, WB9DIO, 28 and 50 MHz.

Vibroplex Changes Ownership

The Vibroplex Co, Inc., the "Oldest Name in Amateur Radio", has been acquired by S. Felton "Mitch" Mitchell, Jr, of Mobile, Alabama. Mitch, whose amateur call is WA4OSR, is an extra class amateur first licensed in 1963, and is the first ham to own the Company. Vibroplex will be moving all of its operations back to the south, where its roots began. All current Vibroplex products, including the Original bug, the Iambic, the Vibrokeyer, and the Brass Racer will continue to be produced.

Mitch says "The Vibroplex name is older than amateur radio and has come to represent the one piece of equipment in the ham shack that symbolizes the interest, camaraderie, and esprit de corps of the world-wide ham radio community. Even in the age of electronics, the heritage of Vibroplex has been passed down from generation to generation in the service of professional and amateur radio operators who demand quality."

The new address of Vibroplex is 11 Midtown Park, E., Mobile, AL 36606-4141. The new voice telephone numbers are 205-478-8873 and 800-840-8873. The new FAX number is 205-476-0465.

Foundation for Amateur Radio to Administer Academic Scholarships - W5YT

The non-profit Washington, DC based Foundation for Amateur Radio will once again coordinate the distribution of fifty-six scholarships from various donors for the 1995-1996 academic year.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school.

The scholarships range in value from \$500 to \$2,000 each. Some have area restrictions.

Additional information and an application form may be requested prior to April 30, 1995, from:

**FAR Scholarships, 6903 Rhode Island Avenue,
College Park, Maryland 20740**



Hand Scanner to Help Compile Hamsplatter

- Kris KF9AW

The membership of the FWRC voted in the January meeting to purchase a low-cost, hand scanner for use in the development of the Hamsplatter. As Editor, I would first like to apologize for "putting the cart before the horse" in acquiring the hardware prior to the vote. The original scanner that we looked into was for sale in a local store's "bargain bin" for \$80, but the software drivers and image editing programs were missing from the package. That explained the cheap price... A new black-and-white scanner (with software) at the local stores averaged around \$220-\$250. I found one through a mail order which had color scanning capabilities and ran in the same price range. The scanner is now Club property and will be used for graphic development of all FWRC publications and flyers. It, and the WordPerfect Program will be handed down to the next editor.

What does a scanner do? It digitizes photographs, schematics, and artwork and turns them into a graphic pictures which can be resized to fit any spot in the newsletter. Until now, any artwork had to be experimentally shrunk on a copy machine, cut, and taped into "holes" intentionally left in the printed letter. The scanner allows for electronic compilation, without image degradation due to multiple copying. There are several photographs and clipart images in this issue which have been created using the scanner. The W9TE logo on the cover was recovered from original artwork and touched up for use in the Hamsplatter. Another amazing feature is the OCR (Optical Character Recognition) software, which can scan printed text and turn it into an ASCII file - this greatly cuts down on the amount of typing done.

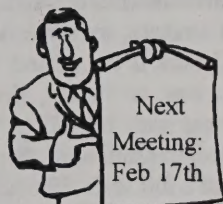
The Hamplatter

A Newsletter for the Fort Wayne Radio Club Members

Vol XXI Issue 2

February 1995

Carl's Corner



January has proven to be an interesting month, from several viewpoints.

Winter finally arrived, which means that we WILL have a Spring, sooner or later.

The January Fort Wayne Radio Club Fox Hunt provided a good challenge, fooling some of the hounds some of the time and most of the hounds most of the time. The Fox was sitting in his vehicle in the parking lot at Pine Valley mall, using an HT with a rubber duck. Just the right distance from the starting point for the hounds to drive past between transmissions. Some hounds first went to Schoaff Park, others went to New Haven?? So simple, yet so difficult. Anyone know where to find a preowned Bradley vehicle?? Jim (K9OMA), needs the extra surface area to mount additional Fox Hunt antenna arrays.

Well, has everyone found good uses for all the treasures they purchased at the FWRC annual AUCTION?? Thanks to the MANY volunteers who worked long and hard in front of and behind the scenes, to make a club event of this type successful. Special thanks to our (new member) Gerry Bailey, an auctioneer by profession, for sharing his talents. Also, words of appreciation are given to the family of Bill Sweet, for the donation on Bill's behalf, of 50% of their auction proceeds to the FWRC. A full accounting of the auction will be given at the February club meeting.

Since time did not permit discussing the FWRC 75th anniversary commemorative event suggestion contest at last month's meeting, it is on the agenda for February.

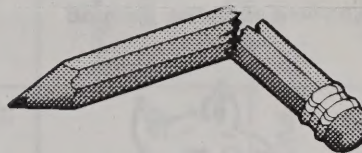
Hello? Hello? Last Saturday, January 28, a work party consisting of Jim (K9OMA), Cliff (N9MKB), Al (WB9SSE), and myself (N9NRO) converged upon the I&M repeater site, for a 6hr refurbishment and installation mission. Minor programming instruction to the 76 repeater eliminated the random .5sec audio dropout we have been experiencing. A pre-amp was added to the receiver of the 440 repeater, to increase sensitivity. The diplexers on the 91 autopatch were disassembled, cleaned, and retuned. Highlighting the mission, was the successful installation of the new autopatch controller.

Operation appears excellent, however some minor reprogramming will be done. The new operating procedure will be discussed at the next club meeting.

How well are we prepared?? Come to the February FWRC meeting where Howard Fletcher N9ADS, the ARRL appointed ARES Emergency Coordinator of Allen County, will present a program providing information on the level of training, procedures, and readiness we have in the Ft. Wayne area, to deal with various emergencies. Plan now to attend, and bring questions.

73's. Carl N9NRO

The next meeting of the Fort Wayne Radio Club will be held on February 17, 1995 at the Salem Church of Christ on Lake Avenue, Fort Wayne. The meeting will start around 19:30 EST. We'll see you there!



January 1995 Minutes

The following are the recorded minutes of the Fort Wayne Radio Club:

The January meeting of the Fort Wayne Radio Club was held at the Salem Church of Christ on 20 January, 1995 and started about 19:30 hours local. Approximately 100 persons were in attendance. The meeting was brought to order by president Carl Rittenhouse.

The minutes from the December meeting were read and after an addition relative to the presentation made by Bob Sievers, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Scott Sides gave a brief financial report. The opening club balance when he took office was \$5702.41; and the current balance as of 20 January 1995 was \$5584.74.

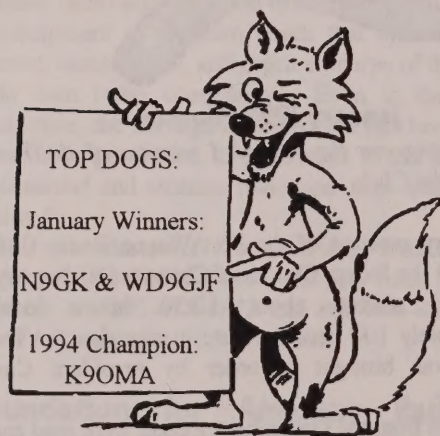
As this is the time of the year that membership dues are typically paid, Carl reminded everyone that renewals should be paid to our treasurer Scott directly. Renewing your membership directly through Scott is the best way to insure that your name will get added to the 1995 mailing list. Be sure to let Scott know if you have had a change of address.

Carl noted that at the last (December) meeting of the board, editor Kris Staller requested permission to purchase a scanner that would be used in conjunction with the word processor to produce the Hamsplatter. The scanner would allow graphics to be scanned and incorporated into the ham splatter articles, so we could include schematics or even photographs if necessary. The scanner Kris had in mind cost less than \$100 and the board gave it's permission for Kris to acquire it. Unfortunately the scanner Kris had in mind became unavailable so Kris purchased another more capable model for \$220. Since expenditures of that amount require approval of the membership by a vote at a regular meeting, Carl requested that purchase of the scanner for the club be put to a vote. Dino Raptus made a motion to vote on the purchase of the scanner, and the motion was seconded by Harry Harvey. The ensuing vote approved of the purchase of the scanner.

Following the business meeting the annual club auction was conducted. A considerable number of items were auctioned-off by auctioneers Dave Beltz, Jim Pliett, and professional auctioneer Jerry Bailey (a brand new club member). The auction concluded about 22:30 hours local.

Following the auction Carl announced that the featured speaker at next months meeting would be Howard Fletcher of Allen County Emergency Preparedness.

Respectfully submitted, Al Burke, WB9SSE



Allen County Fox Hunt

Beware of parked cars with steamy windows!!! The January fox hunt was held on Sunday the 15th. The fox was WA8WEO. After an hour of searching around the Dupont-Coldwater road area, it became apparent that the fox was hiding somewhere in the Pine Valley or Dupont Crossing shopping centers.

Several of the hunters scoured the parking lots on foot, picking up S1-S2 signals with their antennas disconnected from their HTs. Vick N9GK and Clark WD9GJF found the fox around 1.5 hours, hiding in a parked car in the Keltsch parking lot of Dupont Crossing. Several of the hunters continued to walk around the parking lot, passing their location several times, crossing and re-crossing between the two shopping centers on foot. Two hours into the hunt, Kris KF9AW and Karla N9XKM pulled up next to the foxes. A quick inspection of the vehicle noted Van Wert county Ohio plates (cleverly camouflaged with clear blue laminate - looked like an environmental or Michigan plate from a distance), steamed windows, and someone lying prone in the drivers seat. Unsure if the person was an innocent traveller taking a nap, or the fox, Kris sat against the adjacent parked car with his HT at the ready. On the next scheduled transmission, the HT (antenna unplugged) registered a full scale S9 reading. Hot on the trail, Carl N9NRO, Walt N9AVR, and Cliff N9MKB came in third place, followed by Jim K9OMA and Anne KA9YYI.

The next FWRC FoxHunt is Sunday, February 5th, at 1:00pm EST at the Allen County Fairgrounds: Go north of Fort Wayne on Hwy 3 to Carroll Rd. Turn left onto Carroll and proceed west for about 1/2 mile. The fairgrounds will be on your right. The fox will be N9GK and WD9GJF. Everyone is welcome whether you have equipment or not. Feel free to ride along with any of the hunters. Always plenty of time for some good food and gab afterwards. The fox will be on 146.43 MHz.

Getting "Static at Home" - An In-House FoxHunt

Two weeks ago, as I pulled into my garage, I noticed a very strong static signal was over-riding a local AM station tuned on my car radio. I recalled from papers written on electrostatic discharge that a strong static signal usually indicates a fault in a nearby power line (due to arcing between conductors). When I backed the car out of the driveway, the static interference went away. This indicated that an electrical fault was present somewhere in my house! I took a battery powered radio and proceeded to walk through the house, looking for the strongest interference signals. I found the strongest signal near the garage/utility room and extended down a single line running through the middle of the house. You could actually "see" the location of the 'noisy' wire within the walls, using the AM radio receiver. I was able to trace the signal to a three-switch wall plate on the wall of the utility room. The outdoor pole light switch was "on" all the time, as we used a daylight switch on the pole to automatically turn it on at night. Turning the switch off eliminated the noise. I unscrewed the light sensor from the pole light socket and re-installed the bulb. When the wall switch was turned on, there was no static noise. After 14 months of continuous operation, the daylight sensor socket had degraded, causing the RFI interference.

- Kris KF9AW

SUN

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1995 - Communications Calendar

January 1995

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Check QST and CQ for Contest Times and Rules

(Times listed are in Eastern Standard Time GMT-5 hours)

[Key: > Event begins < Event ends]

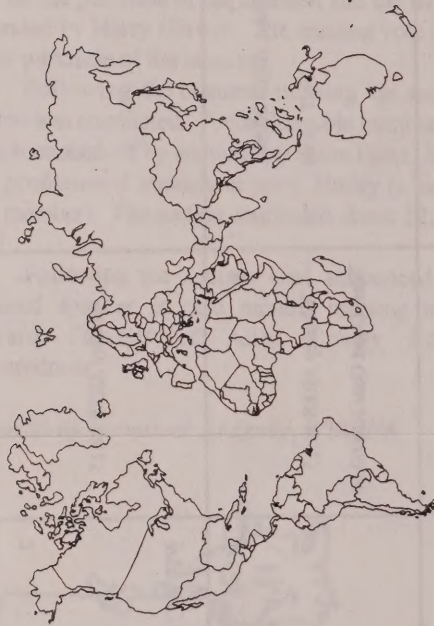
NET FREQS: TNT 146.76 Murphy Swap 146.94 Sloppy Code 7.1405 Hanington ARES 146.685 Whitley ARES 147.150

Daily Nets: Ft Wayne 6m 50.58 (simplex) 19:00 | IMO Traffic 146.88 18:30 | 21 Repeater Group 147.150 21:00 | Auburn 147.360 18:00 | FoxTrot FM 29.100 19:00
Mobile Ten SSB/CW 28.400 Saturday 19:00



Solar activity made an unexpected upturn during the latter half of January, peaking at 92 (flux). This will drop to 75 by the first week of February, followed by a quiet period Feb 4-11, with more unsettled conditions by mid-month. A recurring coronal hole is currently causing the disturbance.

Sunspot numbers averaged 30.1 for the last week of January and the 10 cm flux averaged 80.3. Sunspot numbers are expected to bottom out in May 1996, solar flux in June 1996. The next peak is some time in 2000.



The DX Page

COUNTRY	CALLSIGN:NAME	MODES	FREQUENCIES	DATES ACTIVE	MISC
Afghanistan (YA)	YA/PA3BTQ		14200 @ 1245z	Last Sunday (1/29)	
Australia (VK)	VK4SID:Steve VK4JAK:Andrea				
Belize (V3)	V31TP: Alan, John	CW, SSB	ARRL Int'l DX Phone	2/26 thru 3/11	QSL via AA8JK
Christmas, Cocos Keeling, Lord Howe Isl	YB6AVE/DL8WPX:Joerg DJ5CQ:Rudi DL3DXX:Dietmar	CW	ARRL CW DX Contest	2/15 thru 2/20	QSL via WC0W or NS0B
Comoros	DK7UY:Wolfgang	CW,RTTY,SSB	All bands, but focusing on lower bands	2/8 thru 3/2	QSL via DJ5CQ
East Malaysia (9M8)	9M8PFB: Peter (PB0ALB)	SSB	80-10m	2/3 thru 2/24	No Direct QSL (Bureau only)
Hong Kong/Macao	VR2NVR6/K8PYD XX9YD: Leo	SSB, CW	80-10m (no WARC)	1/31 thru 3/8	QSL via CBA
Micronesia/Belau	V63WW/KC6CW, KC6WW			2/1 thru 2/28	
Montserrat (VP2M)	WA2UJH : Art	CW	ARRL CW DX	2/17-2/23 & 2/24-3/1	QSL via JA2NQG
Zaire (9Q)	9Q5TT:Peter (ON6TT)		ARRL CW DX, 40-160m	2/16 thru 2/26	QSL via NW8F
DX Roundtable	K0VVV	SSB, CW	Contests, WARC & Low 7185 & 7085	2/6 thru 4/1 daily, 0600z	QSL to ON5NT CBA, bureau